

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
X	580



wn Lexington

dress 31 Allen Street

storic Name Tuttle-Carroll Farmhouse

e: Present residential

Original residential

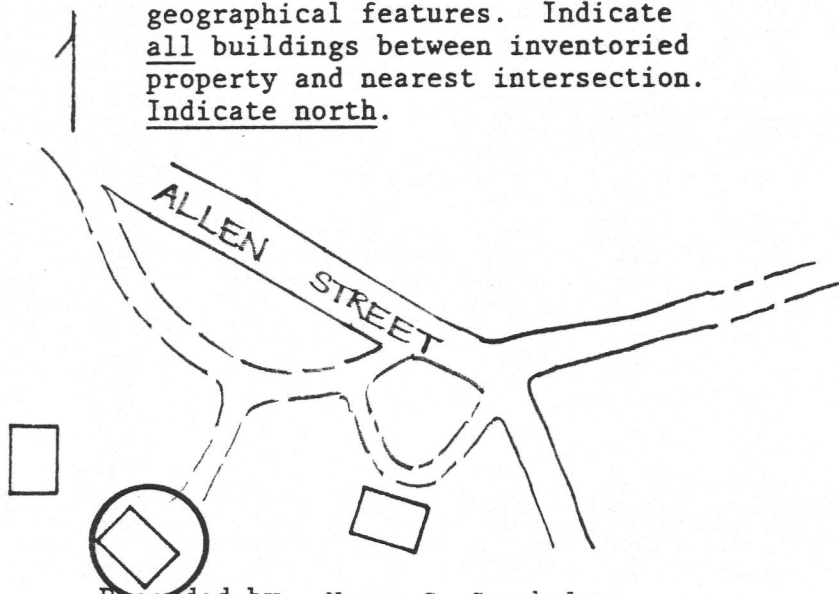
DESCRIPTION:

ite 1806

Source David A. Tuttle deposition, Lexington Historical Society Archives

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

Style Federal

Builder

Architect David Tuttle

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings garage; two barns, one with long ell extension on gable end; large Federal barn (see Carroll farm form)

Major alterations (with dates) bay added to east end; lean-to across the rear; porch enclosed (since 1923); ell/shed converted to family room (1976)

Moved Date

Approx. acreage 23660 ft.²

Setting Reached by long driveways from either Waltham or Allen streets; removed from other houses.

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This house was originally a tiny two-bay wide, one-bay deep Federal Vernacular farmhouse. It had a large center chimney, and, perhaps because it was too small to accommodate a more usual stair arrangement, has a still-existing one-run staircase on an exterior wall. According to the Carrolls, there is a large tree trunk incorporated into the east wall of the house.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

This house was built in 1806 by David Tuttle (1782-1845). He had moved to Lexington in 1804, worked with the carpenter Nehemiah Wellington (see 272 Concord Avenue and Marrett Road forms), and in 1805 started his own carpentry business. In 1806 he bought this land from Ebenezer Munroe, owner of the farm at 56 Allen Street (see form), built this house, and married Munroe's daughter, Esther. David Tuttle was noted for his political opinion: he was anti-Masonic and pro-Jackson like many of his neighbors. His son, David A. Tuttle, a prominent carpenter and builder in Lexington, in the second half of the nineteenth century, was born in this house in 1820 and began his carpentry training with his father in 1834. In 1844 David Tuttle sold the farm. In 1852 it was owned by T.J. Hardy and in 1876 by Abram B. Smith, also the owner of the Smith farm at 92 Blossomcrest Road (see form). In 1887 Abram Smith sold the farm to Michael Carroll and it has remained in the Carroll family ever since. For many years the Carrolls farmed the property -- Michael Carroll is listed as a farmer in the 1887 and 1906 Directories -- but now, aside from keeping a few cows and steers (see Carroll farm area form), they operate an extensive car repair business.

The farmhouse has had a relatively few alterations over the years. In the nineteenth century a third bay was added on the east end and a lean-to room across the rear; a porch on the east end, shown in a 1923 photograph with turned posts and open brackets, is now enclosed; an ell on the east end, shown in the same photo, was converted in 1976 to a family room with sliding glass doors. The center chimney, which contains a supporting beam and was therefore deemed a fire hazard, is no longer operative and is enclosed within walls.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington II, p. 467. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913.

Lexington Historical Society Archives - Burr Church Collection, David A. Tuttle memoirs (1904).

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End"(1891). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II(1900):116-117.

1852 map

1876 map

1889 map

1906 map

1887 Directory

1906 Directory